

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 03396 062126Z

ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 SSO-00 AGR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5157

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINU

SUBJ: ANDEAN INVESTMENT MISSION

REF: (A) STATE 96546, (B) STATE 97418, (C) STATE 101689,

1. THE CONFEDERATION OF PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN AND THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS IN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS FOR MISSION MEMBERS. PLEASE ADVISE US OF THE FINAL COMPOSITION OF MISSION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. WE ARE PLEASED THAT COOK CHOCOLATE JOINED THE MISSION AND WE WOULD WELCOME THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER FOOD PROCESSORS AND CHOCOLATE IMPORTERS, E.G. UNITED BRANDS AND HERSHEY. AS THE STUDY PREPARED BY DR. BEN WAITE (UNIVERSITY OF FLORDIA) AND FORWARDED TO OPIC INDICATED, COCOA IS CONSIDERED A PROMISING SUBSTITUTE FOR COCA PLANTING IN BOLIVIA. PROGRAMS CALLING FOR SUBSTANTIAL U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THE CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT ARE UNDER STUDY BY USAID AT THE PRESENT TIME. IF THE PROJECTS ARE APPROVED THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE DEMAND FOR FOREIGN MARKETING SERVICE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN CROP DEVELOPMENT. WE PLAN TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL EMBASSY BRIEFING IN THE SCHEDULE OF THE AGRI-BUSINESS AND FOOD IMPORTING FIRMS TO DISCUSS AGRO-INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WILL ARISE AS

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RESULT OF THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM.

3. OPIC MAY CONTACT MR. ERNEST IMLE OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING FIRMS THAT ARE INTERESTED IN BOLIVIA COCOA PRODUCTION.

4. WE SUGGEST THAT PORTABLE SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION EQUIPMENT BE BROUGHT BY THE MISSION FOR USE IN THE OPENING SESSION MAY 23. ALL EQUIPMENT OF THIS TYPE AVAILABLE HERE HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO THE GOB-SPONSORED TRAVEL CONGRESS (COTAL), WHICH COINCIDES WITH THE MISSION'S VISIT.

5. SUGGEST OPIC CONTACT USDOC BOLIVIA DESK OFFICER (MUNZER) TO OBTAIN THE NEW OVERSEAS BUSINESS REPORT (OBR) FOR BOLIVIA WHICH PRESENTLY UNDER PREPARATION. THIS PUBLICATION WILL OFFER A GREAT DEAL OF USEFUL INFORMATION TO THE MISSION PARTICIPANTS. IT IS NOT YET AVAILABLE IN LA PAZ.

6. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SATISFY THE REQUESTS OF LINDSAY MANUFACTURING (STATE 97418). BUT GIVEN THE SIZE OF THE MISSION AND OUR LIMITED RESOURCES WE TRUST FIRMS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DEVELOP SEPARATE PROGRAMS, APART FROM THE MEETINGS BEING ARRANGED BY SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS, FOR EACH PARTICIPANT.

7. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER OPIC WILL BEAR THE COST OF TRANSLATORS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS OF MISSION MEMBERS.

8. WE WISH TO REMIND OPIC THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE GIVEN A HIGH ALTITUDE MEDICAL EXAM BEFORE TRAVELLING TO LA PAZ.

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